



PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT : Mark W. Thompson
SERIAL NO.: 10/784,056
FILED : February 20, 2004
TITLE : GUARD FOR A GRASS TRIMMING DEVICE
Group/A.U.: X0671MKX 3724
Conf. No. : 6854
Examiner : Douglas D. Watts
Docket No.: P06711US0

Mail Stop - Amendment
Commissioner of Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

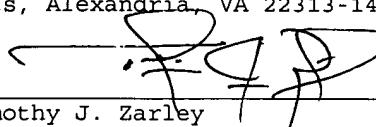
**RESPONSE TO A REQUEST TO FORMAL
INTERVIEW SUMMARY**

In response to the communication dated August 8, 2005,
please consider the following.

On July 20, 2005, the Examiner Douglas D. Watts had a telephone interview with Josef Hoffmann regarding the above mentioned file. During the interview claim 6 and the prior art U.S. Pat. No. 5,107,665 and Design Patent No. D 373,712 were discussed. Hoffmann suggested amending claim 6 to add several limitations and within the response to the office action dated July 25, 2005, claim 6 was amended as Hoffmann had suggested. Attached is a copy of the claims that are identical to the claims that were provided in the response to the office action July 25, 2005. Hoffmann also discussed his belief that this

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 C.F.R. § 1.8(a))

I hereby certify that this document and the documents referred to as enclosed therein are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class mail addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 16th day of August 2005.


Timothy J. Zarley

amendment would make claim 6 patentable in view of the cited prior art references. According to the Examiner, he was going to have to review these claims to determine if he believed they were allowable and thus no agreement regarding the claims was reached.

If any issues remain that may be expeditiously addressed in a telephone interview, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at 515/558-0200.

Respectfully submitted,



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- JLH/bjs -

AUG 18 2005

Amendments to the Claims:

COPY

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A guard for a grass trimming device having a shaft with a head at one end and a handle at the opposite end, comprising:
a releasable clamp slidably connected to the shaft;
~~a support member slidably connected to the shaft at a first end~~
~~of the support member with a~~ within the releasable clamp;
and
a guard member connected to and extending outwardly from a second end of the support member to deflect grass clippings projected from the head of the grass trimming device.
2. (original) The guard of claim 1 wherein the support member has a means for adjusting the distance between the guard member and the shaft.
3. (original) The guard of claim 1 wherein the support member further comprises a pair of support members that are spaced in parallel relation extending beyond the shaft on opposite sides of the shaft.
4. (original) The guard of claim 1 wherein the guard member is made of flexible material.

5. (original) The guard of claim 1 wherein the guard is positioned at a 90 degree angle to the shaft of the grass trimming device.

6. (currently amended) A guard for a grass trimming device having a shaft with a head at one end and a handle at the opposite end, comprising:

a releasable clamp slidably connected to the shaft
a support member slidably connected to within the shaft at a
first end of the support member releasable clamp;
a guard member flexible brush member connected to and extending
outwardly from a second end of the support member to
deflect grass clippings projected from the head; and
a means for adjusting the distance between the guard member and
the shaft of the grass trimming device;
wherein the guard flexible brush member is positioned at a 90
degree angle to the shaft.

7. (original) The guard of claim 6 wherein the support member is slidably connected to the shaft.

8. (original) The guard of claim 6 wherein the support member further comprises a pair of support members that are spaced in parallel relation extending beyond the shaft on opposite sides of the shaft.

9. (original) The guard of claim 6 wherein the guard member is made of a flexible material.

10. (cancelled).

11. (currently amended) A guard for a grass trimming device having a shaft with a head at one end and a handle at the opposite end comprising:
- a support member connected to the shaft at a first end of the support member; and
- a flexible brush member connected to a second end of the support member to deflect grass clippings projected from the head; and
- wherein the flexible brush member is positioned at a 90° angle to the shaft.
12. (original) The guard of claim 11 wherein the support member is slidably connected to the shaft.
13. (original) The guard of claim 11 wherein the support member has a means for adjusting the distance between the guard member and the shaft.
14. (original) The guard of claim 11 wherein the support member further comprises a pair of support members that are spaced in parallel relation extending beyond the shaft on opposite sides of the shaft.
15. (cancelled)
16. (previously added) The guard of claim 6 wherein the adjustable means is a plurality of holes that are used to adjust the vertical distance between the guard member and the shaft.